

made to the application by this amendment and is entitled  
**"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."**

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Bridge, Reg. No. 40,529  
SENNIGER, POWERS, LEAVITT & ROEDEL  
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102  
(314) 231-5400

RLB/psm

Express Mail Label No. EL 945484073 US

**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**

Page 22, lines 18-30 and page 23, lines 1-12 is amended as follows:

The portion of the outermost surface of the pattern roll 42 occupied by continuous land areas 46B likewise can be modified to satisfy the contemplated end-use application of the pattern-unbonded material 4 and, in particular, the end-use application of the pattern-unbonded outer regions 4B. The degree of bonding imparted to the outer region 4B of the pattern-unbonded nonwoven material 4 by the continuous land areas 46B can be expressed as a percent bond area, which refers to the portion of the total plan area of at least one surface of pattern-unbonded nonwoven loop material 4, e.g., region 4B, (see FIG. 1) that is occupied by bonded areas 46B. Stated generally, the lower limit on the percent bond area suitable for forming the pattern-unbonded nonwoven region 4B of the present invention is the point at which fiber pull-out excessively reduces the surface integrity and durability of the pattern-unbonded material 4. The required percent bond area will be affected by a number of factors, including the type(s) of polymeric materials used in forming the fibers or filaments of the nonwoven web, whether the nonwoven web is a single- or multi-layer fibrous structure, whether the nonwoven web is unbonded or pre-bonded prior to passing into the pattern-unbonding assembly, and the like. Pattern-unbonded nonwoven materials having percent bond areas ranging from about 25% to about 50%, and more particularly from about 36% to about 50%, have been found suitable. In an embodiment, the percent bond area of the region 4B is less than the percent bond area of the center region 4A. For example, the percent bond area of the region 4B is less than 50% [with] when the percent bond area of

the center region 4A is 50% or greater. The percent bond area of region 4B is less than 36% [with] when the percent bond area of the center region 4A is 36% or greater. The percent bond area of region 4B is less than 25% [with] when the percent bond area of the center region 4A is 25% or greater.

Page 32, lines 17-30 and page 33, lines 1-12 is amended as follows:

Next a cross-machine direction ("CD") tensile test was performed as follows. The sample was cut to three inches wide. The samples were then cut [the samples] on the dividing line 101 between the A and B sides. The samples of separated [And B] A and B sides remained paired together. Next the samples were cut so they were 4.5 inches long. Each sample was tested for CD tensile strength using the test as generally outlined below , modified for 2" x 4.5" samples instead of the normal 3"x 6". The testing procedure for the CD tensile strength was generally as follows: This test measures the load (strength) in pounds. In the strip tensile test, two clamps, each having two jaws with each jaw having a facing in contact with the sample, hold the material in the same plane, usually vertically, separated by 2 inches and move apart at a specified rate of extension. Values for strip tensile strength and strip elongation are obtained using a sample size of 2 inches by 4.5 inches, with a jaw facing size of 1 inch high by 3 inches wide, and a constant rate of extension of 300 mm/min. The Sintech 2 tester, available from the Sintech Corporation, 1001 Sheldon Dr., Cary, N.C. 27513, the Instron Model TM, available from the Instron Corporation, 2500 Washington St., Canton, Mass. 02021, or a Thwing-Albert Model INTELLECT II available from the Thwing-Albert Instrument Co., 10960 Dutton Rd., Phila., Pa.

19154 may be used for this test. Results are reported as the tensile strength per sample in the cross-machine direction (CD). The results are set forth in Table 2. The CD tensile for code B (more highly bonded pattern-unbonded sample side) is higher than code A (normal bonded pattern-unbonded sample side): Code A avg CD tensile = 13.43 lbs; Code B avg CD tensile = 22.76 lbs. Accordingly, the more highly bonded, code B sample side was stronger than the normal, loop providing sample side A. In an embodiment of the present invention a Code A pattern is used for the center region 4A, 76A or 96A. In an embodiment of the present invention a Code B pattern is used for the outer region 4B, 76B or 96B.

Table 1 on page 34 is amended as follows:

Table 1 Test Results

Color			
Code	b	Code	b
A	-0.3	B	-0.21
A	-0.26	B	-0.02
A	-0.24	B	0.04
A	-0.11	B	-0.26
A	-0.02	B	-0.11
A	-0.14	B	0.04

A	-0.01	B	-0.09
A	-0.17	B	-0.19
A	-0.3	B	-0.21
A	-0.2	B	0.04
A	-0.18	B	-0.19
A	-0.15	B	0.05
A	-0.43	B	-0.19
A	-0.23	B	0.06
A	-0.2	B	-0.02
A	-0.16	B	0.1
A	-0.17	B	-0.14
A	-0.13	B	-0.07
A	-0.24	B	-0.17
A	-0.23	B	-0.2

avg	-0.1935	-0.087
std dev	0.0951 <u>61</u> [61]	0.11425 <u>3</u> [3]

Table 2 on page 35 is amended as follows:

Table 2

CD Tensile  
Strength

Code	lbs	Code	lbs
A	11.57	B	23.42
A	11.75	B	23.38
A	14.59	B	23.95
A	15.3	B	18.34
A	14.42	B	23.4
A	12.95	B	24.05

avg	13.43
std dev	1.570669
	[69]

avg	22.75667
std dev	2.183856

IN THE CLAIMS:

2. The fabric of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of  
the individual fibers or filaments within the first plurality  
of discrete unbonded areas [having at least a portion thereof  
extending] extend into and are bonded within the continuous  
5 bonded areas.

3. The fabric of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of  
the individual fibers or filaments within the second plurality  
of discrete unbonded areas [having at least a portion thereof  
extending] extend into and are bonded within the continuous  
5 bonded areas.

4. The fabric of claim 3, wherein the continuous bonded  
areas comprise [nonwoven web having a percent bond area of]  
from about 25 percent to about 50 percent of the nonwoven web.

10. The fabric of claim 1, wherein the first  
characteristic is a first opacity level[, wherein] and the  
second characteristic is a second opacity level, the second  
opacity level [is] being higher than the first opacity level.

11. The fabric of claim 1, wherein the first  
characteristic is a first tensile strength[, wherein] and the  
second characteristic is a second tensile strength, the second  
tensile strength [is] being greater than the first tensile  
5 strength.

18. The fabric of claim 1, wherein the first  
characteristic is a first fluid flow[, and [wherein] the  
second characteristic is a second fluid flow[, the second fluid  
flow being different than the first fluid flow].

21. A pattern-unbonded non-woven web, comprising:  
a first region including a first pattern of continuous  
bonded areas [that defines] defining a first plurality of  
discrete unbonded areas;

5 at least one second region including a second pattern of continuous bonded areas [that defines] defining a second plurality of discrete unbonded areas[; and

wherein], the second pattern [is] being different [than] from the first pattern.

22. The web of claim 21, wherein the first region is adapted [to receive] for fastening engagement with a hook-type fastener.

24. The web of claim 21, wherein the at least one second region includes a transition region adjacent the first region, and wherein the transition region includes a third pattern of continuous bonded areas [that defines] defining a third  
5 plurality of discrete unbonded areas, the third pattern being a gradient from the first pattern to the second pattern.

25. The web of claim 21, wherein the first pattern [creates] has a first characteristic[;] and the second pattern [creates] has a second characteristic different from said first characteristic.

26. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first opacity level[, wherein] and the second characteristic is a second opacity level, the second opacity level [is] being higher than the first opacity level.

27. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first tensile strength[, wherein] and the second characteristic is a second tensile strength, the second tensile strength [is] being greater than the first tensile strength.



31. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first stiffness[,] and [wherein] the second characteristic is a second stiffness.

32. The web of claim 31, wherein the first stiffness is greater than the second stiffness such that the nonwoven web in a region including the second plurality of discrete unbonded areas more easily bends.

34. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first fluid flow[,] and [wherein] the second characteristic is a second fluid flow[, the second fluid flow being different than the first fluid flow].

36. The fabric of claim 34, wherein the second fluid flow is less than the first fluid flow.

Claim 37 is canceled.

39. A disposable absorbent article, comprising:

a bodyside liner;

an outer cover;

an absorbent structure disposed between the liner and the

5 outer cover;

a mechanical fastening tab joined to the article, the fastening tab including a male fastening component; and

a female component joined to the outer cover and adapted for releasable engagement with the male component[;],

10 the female component comprising the pattern-unbonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1.

Claims 40 and 41 are canceled.

42. The process of claim [40] 61, further comprising:  
forming a second nonwoven web having a fibrous structure  
of individual fibers or filaments;

feeding the first and second nonwoven webs [into] through  
5 the nip in opposed relationship with each other; and  
bonding the first and second nonwoven webs together to  
form a pattern-unbonded nonwoven laminate.

43. A disposable absorbent article, comprising:  
an article chassis having a side edge;

a pattern-unbonded material on the article chassis, the  
pattern-unbonded material including a first region and at least  
5 one second region, the first region including a first pattern  
of continuous bonded areas defining a first plurality of  
discrete unbonded areas, the second region including a second  
pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a second plurality  
of discrete unbonded areas, the second pattern being different  
10 from the first pattern;

[wherein] at least a portion of the second region  
[extends] extending out beyond the side edge of said article  
chassis.

47. The article of claim 43, wherein the at least one  
second region includes a transition region adjacent the first  
region, and wherein the transition region includes a third  
pattern of continuous bonded areas [that defines] defining a  
5 third plurality of discrete unbonded areas, the third pattern  
being a gradient from the first pattern to the second pattern.

48. The article of claim 43, wherein the first pattern [creates] has a first characteristic[;] and the second pattern [creates] has a second characteristic different from said first characteristic.

49. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first opacity level[, wherein] and the second characteristic is a second opacity level, the second opacity level [is] being higher than the first opacity level.

50. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first tensile strength[, wherein] and the second characteristic is a second tensile strength, the second tensile strength [is] being greater than the first tensile  
5 strength.

54. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first stiffness[,] and [wherein] the second characteristic is a second stiffness.

57. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first fluid flow[,] and [wherein] the second characteristic is a second fluid flow[, the second fluid flow being different than the first fluid flow.

Claims 60 and 61 are added.